Ross Alderman 1951–2008

By now most readers have learned of Ross Alderman's untimely demise. Following his death many things have been said and written about his accomplishments and the manner in which he lived his life. No matter who said it or wrote it or how it came out all efforts to describe Ross were uniform in their depiction. Ross was a man of patience and understanding; a man of unusual diligence in all undertakings; a man who consciously made himself available; a man who provided thoughtful advice and helpful assistance; a man of compassion and of loyalty.

Ross showcased these attributes through his strong commitment to JIS. From its inception, Ross served in every capacity; he was Chair of the Policy Committee; he was Co-Chair; and when not in an official capacity he served as ambassador with out portfolio for the benefit of JIS and its component agencies.

As my Co-Chair for the last two years I got to see him in action many times and often times I considered our roles reversed and followed his lead. His presence always made a difference; however his absence has sadly and too late made known his value to us all.

Michael F. Mondelli, Judge

RESOLUTION NO. RS2008-423

A resolution honoring the life and accomplishments of Nashville's Public Defender Ross Alderman.

WHEREAS, Ross Alderman was an exemplary public servant who is remembered by his colleagues and close friends as a man of great integrity and a hard worker who cared about fairness, truth and ethics; and

WHEREAS, he served with acumen and alacrity as Public Defender of Nashville and Davidson County since November of 1999 until his untimely passing on August 9, 2008; and

WHEREAS, Ross Alderman was born and raised in Hardee County, Florida where he earned the rank of Eagle Scout; he graduated from the University of Tennessee College of Law in 1976, is survived by his wife, Patricia J. Cottrell, a judge on the Tennessee Court of Appeals, and the proud father of son Noah a graduate from Hillsboro High School; and

WHEREAS, prior to serving as Public Defender for Nashville and Davidson County, Ross was Deputy Public Defender for seven years and has worked in the Office as a lawyer for over twenty years and in addition to his work in the Office, his long career as a criminal law practitioner has included experience as an Assistant United States Attorney and as an Assistant Federal Public Defender; and

WHEREAS, a conscientious member of his profession, Ross Alderman has served on numerous committees related to criminal justice issues. He serves on the Mayor's Criminal Justice Steering Committee and the Davidson County Community Corrections Advisory Board. He was Chair of the Davidson County Task Force on Improving Community Responses to Women Offenders and Chair of the Justice Integration Services policy committee, he has been President of the Tennessee Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers and Chair of the Tennessee Bar Association Criminal Justice Section and is a 2003 graduate of the Program for Senior Executives in State and Local Government at the Harvard University John F. Kennedy School of Government; and

WHEREAS, under his leadership, the Public Defender's Office has continued and built upon its long-standing tradition of providing quality representation and service to the indigent accused in Davidson County; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Alderman was the driving force behind establishing several new services in the public defender's office, including programs that help clients with mental health and substance abuse problems, working with other agencies of the Davidson County criminal justice system to create a more efficient booking and court appearance process, and increasing the number of Spanish-speaking attorneys, investigators and support staff in an effort to improve the quality of representation to the growing Hispanic community; working with other agencies of the Davidson County criminal justice system to create the Mental Health Court program and the General Sessions Treatment Court; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting and proper that the Metropolitan Council remembers the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being, reflect upon his impeccable character and commitment to Nashville and Davidson County and express our condolences to the family upon the occasion of his untimely passing.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT OF NASHVILLE AND DAVIDSON COUNTY:

Section 1. The Metropolitan Council hereby goes on record as honoring the life and accomplishments of Nashville's Public Defender Ross Alderman.

Section 2. The Metropolitan Council Office is directed to prepare a copy of this Resolution to be presented to the family of the late Ross Alderman, Nashville and Davidson County's Public Defender.

Section 3. This Resolution shall take effect from and after its adoption, the welfare of The Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County requiring it.

Sponsored by: Charlie Tygard, Carter Todd, Mike Jameson, Phil Claiborne, Erik Cole, Jerry Maynard, Rip Ryman, Parker Toler, Tim Garrett, Jim Gotto, Bruce Stanley, Greg Adkins, Emily Evans, Buddy Baker, Randy Foster, Walter Hunt, Erica Gilmore, Sam Coleman, Vivian Wilhoite, Jason Holleman, Duane Dominy, Ronnie Steine, Keith Durbin, Karen Bennett, Sean McGuire, Jim Forkum, Edith Taylor Langster, Darren Jernigan, Bo Mitchell, Megan Barry, Eric Crafton, Carl Burch, Michael Craddock, Anna Page, Pam Murray, Robert Duvall, Jim Hodge, Lonnell Matthews, Frank Harrison, Sandra Moore

Introduced: September 2, 2008   Adopted: September 2, 2008   Approved: September 9, 2008

"Serving the Justice Community"

Case Management Applications Migrated, and Upgraded

On September 13th, JIS, along with the JIS community, deployed the results of what is probably JIS' largest undertaking in its history. The entire CJIS suite was migrated to PowerBuilder 11, and the databases were upgraded to Oracle 10g. In addition, the 32bit Operating system was replaced with a 64bit OS, and a new backup method was implemented.

In 2003, an upgrade, similar in part, was performed to upgrade the PowerBuilder code. At that time, the Metro code was shipped to India, and a few months later, on the Thanksgiving weekend of 2003, the migrated code was deployed at a cost of almost $700,000.

This upgrade differed from the one performed in 2003 in many ways. Over the past five years the amount of databases has tripled, 3 more applications have been added to the suite, much more complex integration is in place, including interfaces with the web environment, and the amount of data that existed in 2003, is a mere fraction of what is housed today.

Especially during a time when we are all facing very tight budgets, it is worth mentioning that this time around, when faced with the need to upgrade, JIS was equipped with the knowledge, and experience to take on and handle every single aspect of this critical, and highly complex upgrade in-house without any vendor assistance. I believe this to be a true testament of the skill, talent, and dedication that can be found in every member of the JIS staff.

What are the benefits of this upgrade? As with all aspects of technology, every so often an upgrade is necessary to remain current with technology to ensure that supported versions are in production. These new versions of both PowerBuilder and Oracle come with new tools which afford us the opportunity to better monitor, manage, support, and enhance the existing applications. Through the introduction of the 64bit Windows Operating system, as well as new hardware, we can now benefit from more memory and other options which open the path to explore additional ways in which to enhance application performance. Finally, with the implementation of RMAN backup and recovery, the old methods of backups have been replaced. The 4 hour period when the applications are taken down on the first Sunday of every month is now a thing of the past. All applications will be backed up online without the need for downtime.

Again, this was a huge undertaking which we are all happy to have behind us. Thanks to the staff at JIS who worked tirelessly throughout the process, and many, many thanks to the customers who gave huge commitments of time to testing to ensure a smooth, and successful upgrade.
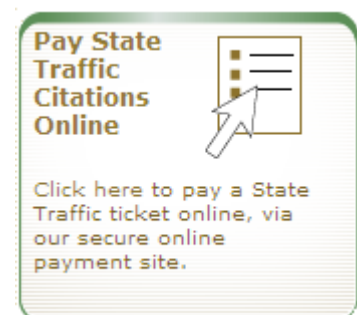
By Nathalie Stiers

State Traffic On-line Payments

At the request of the Criminal Court Clerk's Office, JIS assisted with the design and implementation of an online payment system for tickets issued by the Tennessee Department of Safety. This service allows individuals to pay their offenses online, 24 hours a day/7 days a week.

This project, which included the Clerk's office as well as Vitalchek, went into production on June 13, 2008. A search site against the CJIS data allows an individual to search online for their ticket and the amount to be paid. When the individual is ready to make a payment, they are seamlessly transferred to the Vitalchek site where they may pay by credit card or electronic check. Information is then returned to CJIS receipting the payment and closing the case.

By Kevin Sanders

Pay State Traffic Citations Online

Click here to pay a State Traffic ticket online, via our secure online payment site.

Visit ccc.nashville.gov to pay your State Traffic Citation online.

Juvenile News

I would like to take this opportunity to express my excitement on becoming the project manager for our Juvenile customers. Since being assigned this position I have had the pleasure of getting to know a lot of our Juvenile customers and I look forward to assisting them all with their applications.

In June JIS released new functionality into the Juvenile Information Management System (JIMS) application. The release included payment contracts, person merge, and organization merge. The merge functionality allows the customer to combine persons and organizations that have been entered multiple times, eliminating duplicate data.

JIS and Juvenile are currently starting the process of adding new functionality to the JIMS and Juvenile Case Management (JCM) applications. The JCM application is going to be upgraded so that the JIMS functionality within JCM is the same as the functionality within JIMS. Other functionality that will be added to JIMS includes adding a deceased notification on party records, displaying arrest dates in the queues, updating JCM person records when they are merged within JIMS, and displaying person and organization ID's which will make the merge functionality easier to accomplish.

By Aaron Gray

Open Justice Information Exchange System

Public Defender

After months of development and countless hours of communication with the Public Defender's staff, the new Public Defender OJIES application is ready to go through final testing. All required functionality is available and we are in the process of setting a testing schedule for acceptance by the customer. The new application will not only include all functionality contained in the current application but also many enhancements that will make reporting and consolidation of information much easier. Examples of new technology are; the ability to store any type of media file within a specific case including pictures, video, and digital voice recordings. The investigative section has gained features such as storage locations for people who have been previously denied representation and easy access driving directions to any address stored within the case. The juvenile division has also been included to assist the entire office in reporting and case tracking. Testing has been scheduled to be completed over a six week period to allow for any updating that may be required. I want to give a special thank you to **Karen Williams** and all of the **Public Defender staff** that has made this process very enjoyable.

By Greg Dillard

Davidson County Community Corrections Program

The first phase of the Community Corrections OJIES application has been completed. The staffs from JIS and Community Corrections have spent several weeks gathering requirements for the new application and now hold a set of requirements that everyone seems to be excited about. This new application will enhance the collection of data and allow anyone with access to a case the ability to gather a real time view of each case. The application will allow all of DCCCP forms to be created within the system, the business process will be completely automated, and there will be automated notifications to the users throughout the business process. The next phase will be to design the look and feel for the new application and JIS will be able to use many pieces of code from the OJIES Public Defender application.

By Greg Dillard & Aaron Gray

JIS Staff News

Daniel Ray, originally from Jacksonville, FL, joined JIS in October, 2008 in the position of Java Developer. Ray, as he prefers to be called, has been developing software since he received his first Commodore Vic 20 back in the early eighties. He followed one of his professors from the University of North Florida to Nashville in 2000 to focus on pure Java development.

Ray met his wife, Ellyn, here in Nashville and has been married five years. They have two children together, Garion age 4 and Adara age 2. Ray also has two teenage girls, Ce'Nedra age 17 and Candice age 16.

Ray misses surfing, but fills his spare time playing WoW, writing games for the Xbox 360 and wrestling with his children. He is also an aspiring author who hopes to share his saga with the world in the near future.

Congratulations to **Aaron Gray** who was promoted to Project Manager in May of this year. Aaron was originally hired in October, 2006 as a Business Analyst.

Rob Stollberg joined JIS as a Systems Administrator in April 2008 via Vanderbilt University Medical Center where he served as an Email Administrator. Rob holds a bachelor's degree in Philosophy from Colgate University.

JIS analyst **Will Gordon** remains on active duty and away from our team.

Reduce Spam

- **Never respond to unsolicited e-mail (spam).** If you reply, this is verification that they have a good address.

- **Provide bad information to the spam providers.** If you've dealt with an organization that uses its customers or members as spam targets, go to their website and change your e-mail address. This also works for phone numbers.

- **Don't use your active e-mail address for random Web forms.** Use a known bad address. Examples: nobody@nowhere.com.

- **Never click on links contained within an unsolicited e-mail.** It's possible to include specific data in these pages to confirm receipt of spam. These are sometimes called "web bugs" because of their electronic eavesdropping function.

- **Be cautious of e-mails claiming to contain pictures in** attached files. These files may contain viruses.

- **Report all unsolicited e-mail to your** *Internet Service Provider* **(ISP).** For Metro users, a Public Folder in Exchange has been set up to drop unsolicited e-mail into. This folder will be checked and filters tweaked as needed.